

The Obamacare abortion pill mandate has changed the country in a way that people are thinking for themselves and standing up for what they deem to be morally appropriate. As Americans contend with government requirements, one can only hope that government decision makers will seek to understand and respect the religious beliefs of all constituents. As younger people are growing up, isn't this what we want in the world? As Americans, we strive to do our best and respect the government, but is the government respecting everyone else? As many things run through our head, such as this controversial topic, it changes the way we think, which changes the world little by little, day by day.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS
AND CONGRESSIONAL PROGRESSIVE
CAUCUS BUDGET ALTERNATIVES

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 2015

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, in developing the Democratic alternative budget, we sought and received input from all parts of our Democratic Caucus. The result is a budget that I believe reflects the values and priorities of our Democratic Caucus, and the values and priorities of the American public. While no budget offers each and every idea we might include as individuals, the final product is a powerful vision of how to reward Americans who are working hard to get ahead and to promote economic opportunity for all Americans.

Both the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) and the Congressional Progressive Caucus (CPC) budgets contain some important ideas and initiatives that are not included in the Democratic alternative budget. I believe that both are far superior to the Republican budgets on the Floor today.

The CBC budget contains additional investments in education and other areas that I support and believe are important to our future. While the plan includes somewhat higher revenues and spending than in the Democratic alternative and the President's request, I support the increased investment and revenue levels it provides.

The Progressive budget also contains many initiatives and policy changes I support that are not included in the Democratic alternative budget, including a 4 percent cost-of-living pay increase for federal employees to help compensate for years of pay freezes. I also support adding a public option to the ACA exchanges, a proposal that is included in the CBC plan. In addition, I support a financial market trading fee, and have put forward an "Action Plan to Grow the Paychecks of All, Not Just the Wealthy Few" that would use the revenue to provide more tax relief to the middle class and those working to join the middle class. The tax relief includes paycheck tax credits for American workers, as well as a number of incentives for apprenticeships and training programs and for employee profit-sharing and retirement savings. One of those incentives would use tax policy to leverage higher pay for hard working employees. Specifically, the CEO-Employee Paycheck Fairness Act, which I introduced, prevents corporations from claiming tax deductions for

CEO and executive bonuses and other compensation over \$1 million, unless their workers are getting paycheck increases that reflect increases in worker productivity and the cost of living. The action plan also includes a modernized and expanded Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit that goes beyond the President's proposal in important ways, including by making it refundable.

Similarly, I strongly support putting a price on carbon, and have introduced legislation—the Healthy Climate and Family Security Act—to create a cap and dividend program to reliably lower carbon emissions and auction off permits to the first-sellers of fossil fuels. I believe it is important, however, to offset potential increases in energy costs for American homeowners, so my bill provides a dividend to every American. Professor James Boyce of the University of Massachusetts—Amherst has calculated that this approach will leave about 80 percent of American families with more money in their pocket at the end of the day. This legislation has been endorsed by Bill McKibben and key organizations including the Sierra Club, the Chesapeake Climate Action Network, and Communities United (Maryland).

In the case of both of these policies, the Progressive Caucus budget spends the proceeds on other program priorities. It has \$2.7 trillion more spending than in the President's budget and the Democratic alternative, and \$2 trillion more the CBC budget. The Progressive Caucus budget has \$5 trillion more revenue over ten years than both the President's budget and the Democratic alternative budget, and almost \$4 trillion more than the CBC budget. This is in part because the CPC budget does not rebate all of the carbon tax and does not use revenue from the financial market trading fee to provide tax benefits for low- and middle-income Americans.

While I support many of the initiatives in the Progressive Caucus budget, I believe we should use the revenue generated by a financial market trading fee and a price on carbon to more directly boost family incomes and assist those struggling to find work. Like Leader PELOSI and others who share many CPC priorities, I differ on some of the details of their policy changes. But most of all I am very grateful to the CPC for their significant contribution in the development of the Democratic Alternative and for their vision—which I share—of a growing economy with more shared prosperity.

A TRIBUTE TO BRENNA FINNERTY

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Brenna Finnerty for being named a 2015 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involve-

ment and success in their chosen career field. The 2015 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Brenna has the determination and drive to be successful in all that she undertakes, demonstrated by her exemplary work with the Blank Children's Hospital. As the Annual Giving Director with Blank Children's Hospital, Brenna actively engages with her community to make it a better place. Her passion for volunteering is evident, as is her enthusiasm in supporting a worthy cause. In all aspects of her life, Brenna's example of hard work and service makes our state proud.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Brenna in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Brenna on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2015 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

HONORING BELLE FLOWER
CHURCH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable historical church, Belle Flower Church of Grenada, Mississippi and the great leadership it is under.

In the year of our Lord, eighteen hundred sixty-eight (1868), the first Black Baptist Church was established in Grenada—then a part of Yalobusha County.

The newly organized church was known as the Colored Baptist Church. Members were led by Rev. Larry Patterson, who served as pastor for a number of years.

In September 1872, Lot #119 was deeded to the church by George W. Ragsdale. The lot was situated in the West Ward of Grenada. Ragsdale said that members of the Colored Baptist Church could continue to possess the land as long as the site was used exclusively for church purposes, if members conducted themselves with good behavior and if they paid taxes. If they misbehaved in an unbecoming manner or failed to pay taxes, the land would be seized.

In 1876, the church was pregnant with many possibilities. Due to the severe labor pains of an unknown dispute among church members, Belle Flower gave birth to a daughter. She was named First New Hope Missionary Baptist Church.

A.H. Stevens was encouraged to open a high school at the church in 1888. He planned to offer the basic courses of study, as well as instrumental music.

Since its establishment in 1868, the Belle Flower flock has been led by nineteen shepherds. They are Reverends: Larry Patterson, George Wright, S.P. Martin, Jerry Weathers, Augustus Nabors, D. Higgins, A.L. Hills, Joseph Peterson, Willis Varnado, Robert Varnado, J.B. Webb, W.H. Turner, A.D. Banks, H.L. Barnes, S.T. Cunningham,